

REMARKS

The Office Action dated January 26, 2006 has been reviewed, and the comments of the U.S. Patent Office have been considered.

Claims 1-21 are pending in this application. Claim 6 has been amended. Claims 1-5 and 18-21 have been withdrawn by the Examiner. The amendments to claim 6 are supported in the specification by at least paragraph [0038] and the Abstract.

Claims 6-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C §103(a) as being unpatentable over Cooper (6,132,186) in view of Ward (4,947,065). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

With regard to independent claims 6 and 10, Cooper fails to describe a method of forming a magnetic material of a soft magnetic composite involving the process of heat treating a green compact at a predetermined atmosphere to form the soft magnetic composite. Cooper only describes a process of forming a soft magnetic composite that includes heating and sintering, and fails to show or describe the use of a predetermined atmosphere to form a soft magnetic composite. *See* Cooper at col. 5, lines 61-65. Cooper thus fails to appreciate Applicant's discovery that a predetermined atmosphere is important to the formation of soft magnetic composites. Ward fails to remedy this deficiency in Cooper because Ward does not describe a process using a predetermined atmosphere.

Cooper and Ward also fail to describe the formation of groups of magnetic material that are magnetically isolated and separated from other groups in a stator, as recited in claims 6 and 13.

For the foregoing reasons, Cooper in view of Ward fails to teach or suggest all of the features recited in independent claims 6 and 10, and the dependent claims thereof. It is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.


CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this Application and the prompt allowance of at least claims 6-17.

Should the Examiner feel that there are any issues outstanding after consideration of this response, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned to expedite prosecution of the application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized by this paper to charge any fees during the entire pendency of this application including fees due under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17 which may be required, including any required extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account 50-3840. **This paragraph is intended to be a CONSTRUCTIVE PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a)(3).**

Respectfully submitted,



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